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page 2In the Specification:

Amend paragraph 8 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

In accordance with another broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid comprising at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine in an amount effective to reduce tar sand accretion.

Amend paragraph 9 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

In accordance with another broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid comprising an effective amount of a tar sand anti-accretion additive for drilling fluids selected from the group consisting of a phosphonate, a phosphate ester of alkanolamine or mixtures thereof.

Amend paragraph 10 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

In accordance with another broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for drilling a wellbore through a tar sand-containing formation, the method comprising: operating a drilling assembly to drill a wellbore and circulating an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid through the wellbore as it is drilled, the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid including an amount of at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine effective to limit tar sand accretion on metal surfaces.

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Amend paragraph 11 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

In accordance with another broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for limiting accretion on metal surfaces in contact with tar sand-containing formation, the method comprising: washing the metal surfaces with an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid, the ~~based-based~~ drilling fluid including an amount of at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine.

Amend paragraph 12 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

In accordance with another broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for removing accretion from metal surfaces in contact with tar sand-containing formation, the method comprising: washing the metal surfaces with an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid, the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid including an amount of at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine.

Amend paragraph 19 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

The drilling fluid is useful to inhibit or remove tar sand accretion on metal surfaces. In one aspect the drilling fluid can be used in a method for drilling a wellbore through a tar sand-containing formation. In such a method, without the present additive, drill cuttings can adhere as accretions to the metal surfaces of the drilling assembly, and metal surfaces in the wellbore such as liners and casing. Thus, the present method includes circulating the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid, as described above, while operating a drilling assembly to drill the wellbore.

Amend paragraph 22 of the disclosure such that it reads as follows:

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It has been found that the drilling fluid of the present invention can also be used to reduce or remove accretions, which have already been built up on metal surfaces. Thus, in another aspect the drilling fluid can be used in a method for removing accretion from metal surfaces that have been in contact with tar sand-containing formation cuttings, the method comprising: washing the metal surfaces with an ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid, the ~~based-based~~ aqueous-based drilling fluid including an amount of at least one of (i) a phosphonate and (ii) a phosphate ester of alkanolamine.